

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EA-11 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /158 W

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R 170917Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 491

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, PK, BG, IN

SUBJ: ICRC APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR BENGALI ASSISTANCE

REF: ISLAMABAD 6420

SUMMARY: ICRC ISLAMABAD OFFICE PRESENTED TO US AN APPEAL FOR USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PERMIT IT (AND SIMILAR OFFICES IN INDIA AND BANGLADESH) TO ALLEVIATE SOME IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS AND WORK ON REPATRIATION OF POPULATIONS STRANDED BY THE 1971 WAR. UNILATERAL REPATRIATION OF 5,000 BENGALI NOW BEING WORKED OUT AND MUCH LARGER NUMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE MOVED WHEN AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN GOP, GOI AND BDG. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS POSITIVE CONSIDERATION TO APPEAL FOR FUNDS: ICRC IN PAKISTAN IS PERFORMING DIFFICULT AND WORTHWHILE

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ROLE LEADING TOWARD REDUCED SUFFERING AND POLITICAL

TENSION. OTHER GOVERNMENTS ALSO BEING APPROACHED BY ICRC. END SUMMARY.

1. ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE MARTIN CALLED ON CHARGE AUGUST 15 TO SOLICIT FURTHER USG FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC FOR CONTINUING WORK IN PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH. ICRC HAS, HE SAID, ALREADY MADE A DIRECT APPEAL TO USG AND AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GENEVA AND TO 20 OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES. WHILE NO SPECIFIC AMOUNT WAS GIVEN, JUNE REPORT FROM ICRC GENEVA (MAUNOIR, ASST. DIR. OPERATIONS) SAYS FUNDS AVAILABLE WILL RUN OUT AT END AUGUST, AND THAT APPROXIMATELY S.FR. 520,000 (\$173,333 APPROXIMATELY AT FR.3 TO \$1) MONTHLY IS NEEDED TO CARRY ON OPERATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA AND GENEVA. ANOTHER REPORT (D 1301 B) ICRC GENEVA ON "ACTIVITIES OF ICRC IN ASIAN SUBCONTINENT (19 APRIL 1972 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1973)" LISTED USG (AID) CONTRIBUTION AS S.FR. 1,875,000 OUT OF A TOTAL OF FR. 7,240,000 FROM FOUR OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND SIX NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES. (PRESUME THESE REPORTS ACCOMPANIED ICRC APPEAL IN GENEVA TO USG MENTIONED ABOVE.)

2. MARTIN DESCRIBED CURRENT EFFORTS OF ICRC ISLAMABAD OFFICE ON BEHALF OF STRANDED BENGALIERS AS (1) GENERAL PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE SUCH AS ACTING AS INTEREDIARY IN BENGALIERS' PROBLEMS WITH GOP IN MATTERS OF MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE FOR FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS, HOUSING DIFFICULTIES AND POLICE HARRASSMENT; (2) VISITING 30 RELOCATION CENTERS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS, BRINGING TO GOP ATTENTION ANY NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT OR RELIEF; (3) SMALL CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO DESTITUTES, ESPECIALLY IN PESHAWAR 3.4-2-)08,\$8 -,\$)-#943 -43- , PLUS CONTRIBUTION TO WELFARE AGENCIES WORKING IN KARACHI; (4) PREPARING BENGALIERS FOR REPATRIATION BY REGISTRATION, OBTAINING GOP AND BDG CLEARANCE, AND SELECTING PRIORITY CASES. HE SAID COSTS OF ISLAMABAD OFFICE HAD GONE UP SINCE 1973 ESTIMATES BECUASE OF DETENTION OF SOME AND REDUCED ALLOWANCES TO OTHER FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS.

3. AFTER DEPARTURE OF 5,000 CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE TRANSFERRED TO DACCA (REFTEL), ICRC FORESEES CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT IN REPATRIATION PROCESS AS AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN GOP, GOI AND BDG. GOP HAS REQUESTED ICRC TO MAKE CENSUS OF ALL BENGALIERS REMAINING IN PAKISTAN (ESTIMATED 100,000) EXCEPT FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS (50,000) WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN SURVEYED. ICRC GENEVA IS STUDYING CENSUS PROPOSAL.

4. IN SPECULATING ON FUTURE EXCHANGES AMONG THREE COUNTRIES, MARTIN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE WOULD PROCEED SLOWLY. ONE OR ANOTHER PARTY MIGHT WISH ACT ON TIME-CONSUMING RECIPROCAL BASIS, INSISTING ON INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS CAREFULLY SCREENED BY RECEIVING GOVERNMENT; EVEN POWS' RETURN MAY BE CONDITIONED UPON PAKISTANI PERFORMANCE ON OTHER ASPECTS OF EXCHANGE. THIS PESSIMISTIC BUT PRIVATE VIEW WAS BASED ON GENERAL DISTRUST HE FOUND IN RELATIONS AMONG COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

5. DIFFICULT ESTIMATE ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIRED FOR ICRC WORK HERE. EVEN IF EARLY AGREEMENT REACHED ON EXCHANGE, MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION AND CLEARANCE OF OVER 150,000 BENGALIERS STRANDED IN PAKISTAN. IF EXCHANGES WERE DRAWN OUT, AWAITING GOP OR BDG CLEARANCE, ICRC ISLAMABAD OFFICE COULD MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITY FOR YEAR OR MORE.

6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF ICRC'S GENERAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS. IN THIS HUMANITARIAN TASK, THEY ARE UNIQUELY ABLE TO PERFORM FRUSTRATING BUT WORTHWHILE ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AMONG FORMER ENEMIES OF SUBCONTINENT WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ASSISTED WHEN PUBLIC IS NOT AGITATED BY LARGE NUMBER OF COMPATRIOTS HELD HOSTAGE. SOBER

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